



OIL RIG FIRE -- While owner Andy Tallman was on top inspecting the damage on his oil well service rig, firemen below were making sure the last of the fire was out. Damage in the Friday afternoon fire was estimated at \$5,000. Tallman had the rig operating again by Saturday.

Repaired by Saturday

Friday oil well rig fire loss set at \$5,000

Damage was estimated at \$5,000 when an oil well service rig caught fire in Grant township Friday.

Three fire departments were called to extinguish the blaze.

Owner of the rig and oil well was Andy Tallman of Caro. It was located south of McAlpine Road, between Farver and Maxwell Roads.

Tallman said he and his son Alex were using a torch to clean paraffin out of the pipes and it caught grease on fire. That was about 1 p.m.

The Elmwood-Gagetown

Fire Department received the call first. Fred Sullivan of that department said when they arrived, flames were as high as the 50-foot tower on the service rig.

The Elkland township and Owendale departments were also called. It was later discovered the fire was in Elkland's territory, though close to the boundary of the Gagetown department.

Firemen were on the scene a little more than an hour, with the Owendale department the first to leave.

According to Tallman, the

last time oil had been pumped from the low-production well was in 1974, when it became no longer profitable to operate.

He since purchased the well, as higher oil prices again make pumping profitable.

The service rig was used to remove all the sections of pipe in the ground, which then had to be cleaned before they could be reinstalled. He and his son had 3,300 feet of pipe cleaned and back in the ground and only had four 29-foot sections to go to complete the job when

the fire broke out.

He said the service rig was worth about \$50,000 but estimated damage at \$5,000.

It required some new parts, but Tallman had the rig back in operation by Saturday.

At 9:41 a.m. last Thursday morning, the automatic fire alarm at Hills and Dales General Hospital set off the fire siren. It was a false alarm.

Biggest margin in Tuscola

Upper Thumb says Bush over Reagan

Tuscola county followed a statewide trend Tuesday favoring George Bush over Ronald Reagan in Michigan's basically Republican presidential primary.

Sanilac and Huron counties also sided with Bush for the Republican nomination. Also in Sanilac, a millage renewal in Austin township was defeated.

In the Tuscola county election, Bush hauled in 1,665 votes to Reagan's 1,084. Rep. John Anderson, of Illinois, whose name appeared on the ballot even though he is running as an independent, garnered 210 votes. Harold Stassen received 14 votes and Benjamin Fernandez, 15. The uncommitted space drew 39 votes.

Statewide, Bush gathered 57 percent of the vote while Reagan got 32 percent and Anderson, 8 percent.

In Elkland township, Bush had 175 votes to Reagan's 98 and Anderson's 15. In Ellington, Bush got 35 votes, Reagan, 24, and Anderson received five.

In Elmwood township, the breakdown went Bush, 40, Reagan, 20 and Anderson, 9. In Kingston it was Bush, 47, Reagan, 26, and Anderson, three. Novesta township was one of five townships to favor Reagan, giving him 39, Bush, 26, and Anderson, 1.

In addition to the presidential candidates, Republican voters chose delegates to the upcoming county convention.

In Novesta township, one of only two townships in the county to have a contest for delegates, County Clerk Elsie Hicks and her husband, Gerald, were elected with 41 and 42 votes, respectively. They defeated David and Janet Moody, with 17 and 12 votes, respectively, who are committed to Ronald Reagan. The Hicks are uncommitted.

Delegates from Precincts 1 and 2 of Elkland township ran uncontested and all were elected. Attending the convention from Precinct 1 will be John Marshall, 76 votes; Mabel Marshall, 59; Esther

McCullough, 75, and Marie Roch, 63.

From Precinct 2, four delegates were also elected. Jack Gallagher got 110; Edwin Karr, 99; Maynard McConkey, 116, and Harold Perry, 95.

In Ellington, Elmwood, and Kingston, no delegates were elected since none had filed for candidacy. No one received write-in votes for the positions.

Voters in all three counties stuck with another state trend concerning the low number of voters that turned out.

Of the 28,369 voters registered in Tuscola county, only 3,134 -- 11 percent -- went to the polls. It was estimated that fewer than 700,000 votes were cast statewide.

In Elkland township, 314 of 1,924 registered voters turned out and in Elmwood, only 75 of 664 registered voters did so. Of 511 registered in Ellington, 77 cast ballots. Novesta saw 83 of its 603 registered vote. Kings-

ton had 91 of its 703 registered voters turn out.

The low turnout was due to the fact the election was basically a Republican function, according to Mrs. Hicks. The Democratic primary was meaningless and even on the Republican side, a loss in Michigan probably will not be a major setback for the Reagan campaign.

The former California governor leads Bush in the overall delegate count by a wide margin. In fact, with Reagan winning the Oregon primary Tuesday he should have the necessary number of delegates to be nominated at the national convention in Detroit this summer.

The Democratic half of the primary meant nothing since that party already chose its national convention delegates in caucuses last month.

That led President Jimmy Carter and Sen. Edward Kennedy, of Massachusetts, to withdraw from the primary. Even then, Carter

received 8 write-in votes and Kennedy, 3, in Tuscola county.

The only Democrats on the ballot were California Gov. Edmund Brown Jr., who has withdrawn from the campaign, and Lyndon LaRouche Jr., former chief of the U.S. Labor Party. They received 81 and 44 votes respectively. A total of 101 Democratic voters were uncommitted.

SANILAC COUNTY

In Sanilac county, Bush garnered 2,084 votes to 1,692 for Reagan. "Uncommitted" received 199 votes. Fernandez received nine votes and Stassen got four. Ex-President Gerald Ford received one write-in vote.

In the meaningless Democratic primary, "uncommitted" received 88 votes, Brown, 85, LaRouche, 35, President Carter, 21 write-in and Sen. Kennedy, eight write-in.

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Supreme Court to hear O-G appeal

The Michigan Supreme Court will hear the appeal of the Owendale-Gagetown School District concerning the key Goslin property transfer case.

In a decision released Friday, the justices of the state's highest court granted the district's motion to appeal the October, 1979, ruling of the Michigan Court of Appeals that the property is now part of the Cass City School District.

"We're back to square 1," said an elated Owen-Gage Supt. Ronald Erickson, noting that it will be the first time the Supreme Court will hear the district's arguments concerning the school property transfer law.

Earlier in the lengthy legal proceedings, it had declined to hear an Owen-Gage appeal in the Goslin case.

The Supreme Court granted the district's motion for leave to appeal, giving its attorney, James Schouman, until Aug. 6 to submit briefs.

The other side has until Sept. 30 to submit the same.

with oral arguments to be heard in November.

How long after that the court will issue its ruling won't be known until it does so. In some instances, according to Assistant Attorney General Gerald Young, the court issues a ruling in a couple of months. Sometimes it takes 1-1 1/2 years to do so.

The importance of the Supreme Court decision to hear the case, he explained is, "It's safe to say we'll get a definite answer this time."

Young is representing the state Board of Education in the proceedings, which in May, 1976, approved the transfer from Owen-Gage to Cass City.

The more than 40 property owners involved had appealed after the boards of education of the Tuscola and Huron Intermediate School Districts in May, 1975, rejected the transfer request. The Goslin territory has a state equalized valuation of more than \$4.2 million.

The Supreme Court is asking that briefs be submitted responding to two

questions.

The major question is whether state law allows the state education board to transfer property from one school district to another as long as the valuation is 10 percent or less of the "losing" district's valuation.

Owen-Gage contends that once more than 10 percent of the original district is transferred away, as has happened, a public vote of approval is required for all subsequent transfer requests.

The second question the high court may address is whether the state board acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner, that is, without logical reason, in approving the transfer.

According to Young, Owen-Gage could lose on the 10 percent rule but still win the case if the court decides the state board was arbitrary and capricious.

The question becomes moot, however, should the judges rule in favor of the district on the 10 percent rule.

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Why do teachers leave Cass City? It's too small for some

By Mike Eliasohn

Cass City may be the hub of the Thumb, but for many new teachers here, it definitely isn't the center of activity.

That appears to be a major reason why many new teachers spend only a few years here at most, then leave.

Another reason stems from the fact the teachers are new and young.

None of the teachers and administrators to whom the question was asked thought that teachers leave because of salaries.

As expressed by a second year teacher, the pay may be higher in metropolitan areas, but so is rent.

Some teachers do leave the profession for higher paying jobs in other fields. Intermediate School Principal Bob Stickle commented, "High School Principal Russ Richards recalled seeing a study that showed that most teachers eventually

move to within 50 miles of their home towns.

In comparison to surrounding school districts, which are even smaller, the Cass City school district has had a higher teacher turnover rate, at least during the last few years.

Including counselors and librarians, Cass City welcomed 15 new staff members in September, 1975, nine in 1976, 16 the following year, 21 in 1978 (plus four more at mid-year), and 10 at the start of the current school year.

Present staff, including counselors and librarians, totals 96, so during that time span, the number of new teachers in a year has ranged from roughly 10-25 percent. (Some new positions have been added in the last couple of years).

Both Supt. Donald Crouse and school board President Geraldine Prieskorn feel the high number of teachers who started in the fall of 1978 was an aftermath of the teacher strike that spring.

Some teachers left because they didn't get the support of the community they had expected, Crouse said. "I think they were disappointed in the reaction from the community."

The Chronicle has only reported the names of new teachers in surrounding districts the past two years.

In September, 1978, Owendale-Gagetown had six new teachers, one of whom was hired for one year only to replace a teacher on leave. Last fall, there were two

new teachers, one on a one-year only basis at that time. Total staff numbers 27, so including one-year temporary replacements, that's a turnover rate of 7-22 percent.

Kingston had one new teacher in fall, 1978, three last fall, of a total staff of 38 (3-8 percent). Uby welcomed four new teachers in 1978, two for the present school year, of a staff of 56 (11-3.5 percent).

Crouse pointed out that staff turnover isn't necessarily bad. "I personally feel the staff with a mix is good. I think it keeps the system more alive, between young and more experienced teachers."

He also said the district does not deliberately hire new teachers fresh out of college, with a "but" added. "We want to get the best person we can," he said, pointing out that the district does hire some teachers with past experience.

He added just because a teacher has taught elsewhere doesn't mean he or she is a better teacher. Thus if it means hiring an experienced teacher with a mediocre record who has to be paid \$4,000 a year more, he would rather hire a new teacher with good credentials.

The contract with the Cass City Education Association, pretty much standard in education, provides that new teachers with experience have to be paid at the same pay rate as teachers who have spent the same number

of years within the district. Deciding which teachers to hire is basically a joint decision between the superintendent and the principal of the building in which the person to be hired will teach. The principals conduct the initial interviews.

WHY LEAVE?

According to one high school teacher, who is female and single, the joke among teachers is that the administration is trying to keep new teachers here by

getting them to marry local people.

One teacher who did marry a local man said she might have limited her stay here to two years, but now that she is married, will stay longer -- provided her husband doesn't have to go elsewhere for job reasons.

"If I wasn't married," she added, "I'd probably be bored."

Boredom does appear to be a major reason why many new teachers don't

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Garage sales are success

It appears that most of the participants in last week's community-wide garage sale consider the event a success and would like to see it continued.

Aside from giving citizens an opportunity to get rid of many items gathering dust around their houses and making a little profit, many said they feel the sales brought customers into Cass City stores.

"Of course anything that brings people into the town is good for the town," said Gladys Albee, of 6457 Garfield Street.

She added that many of the bargain shoppers seemed to be moving

smoothly from one sale to another.

Maps showing locations of the sales were available from local merchants to assist shoppers. The maps were printed by the Cass City Chamber of Commerce, who sponsored the event, and were paid for with the \$5 registration fee submitted by persons having a sale.

The final decision will be up to the chamber board, according to chamber President Tom Herron, but he thought it likely the organization will sponsor the event again next year.

One suggestion Mrs. Albee Please turn to page 20.



SHOPPERS' DELIGHT -- Garage sales in Cass City Thursday, Friday and Saturday provided lots of bargains for shoppers. Looking for some of them in the garage of Elaine Proctor, 4794 N. Seeger Street, were Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Gregory of Caseville.

Annual
tribute to
seniors
See special
section